UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

PROVISIONAL

S/PV.2994
17 June 1991

ENGLISH

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWO THOUSAND
NINE HUNDRED AND NINETY-FOURTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 17 June 1991, at 4 p.m.

President:	Mr. BECHIO	(Côte d'Ivoire)
Members:	Austria	Mr. HOHENFELLNER
	Belgium	Mr. NOTERDAEME
	China	Mr. JIN Yongjian
	Cuba	Mr. ZAMORA RODRIGUEZ
	Ecuador	Mr. POSSO SERRANO
	France	Mr. MERIMEE
	India	Mr. MENON
	Romania	Mr. MUNTEANU
	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	Mr. VORONTSOV
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. RICHARDSON
	United States of America	Mr. WATSON
	Yemen	Mr. AL-ASHTAL
	Zaire	Mr. BAGBENI ADEITO NZENGEYA
	Zimbabwe	Mr. MUMBENGEGWI

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Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, within one week, to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Department of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

91-60752/A 5133V (E)

The meeting was called to order at 4.40 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

THE SITUATION BETWEEN IRAQ AND KUWAIT

PLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RELEVANT PARTS OF SECTION C OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 687 (1991): REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (S/22614)

NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (S/22615)

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 26 OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 687 (1991) (S/22660)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I should like to inform members of the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Iraq in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In accordance with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion without the right to vote, in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Al-Nima (Iraq) took a place at the Council table.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on the agenda.

The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the following documents: report of the Secretary-General on the plan for the implementation of relevant parts of section C of Security Council resolution 687 (1991), document S/22614; note by the Secretary-General submitting to the members of the Council the text of

(The President)

a letter addressed to him under paragraph 13 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) by the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), document S/22615; and report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 26 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991), document S/22660.

Members of the Council also have before them document S/22686, containing the text of a draft resolution submitted by France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, and document S/22698, containing the text of a draft resolution submitted by Belgium, France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

I should like to draw the attention of members of the Council to document S/22682, which contains the text of a letter dated 9 June from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, and document S/22689, which contains the text of identical letters dated 11 June 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires, a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed respectively to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council.

The first speaker is the representative of Iraq, on whom I now call.

Mr. AL-NIMA (Iraq) (interpretation from Arabic): My delegation wishes to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for this month. We wish you every success. We also wish to express deep appreciation to your predecessor, the Ambassador of China, Mr. Li Daoyu, who conducted the Council's business in a wise and able manner last month.

(Mr. Al-Nima, Iraq)

My delegation has comments to make on the draft resolution in document S/22686. First I should like to give a comprehensive review clarifying the implementation of resolution 687 (1991) - the degree of Iraq's compliance and the fulfilment of its responsibilities under that resolution.

The Iraqi Government accepted resolution 687 (1991), expressing its formal acceptance on 6 April in a message to the President of the Security Council and the Secretary-General. I wish to state that the Iraqi Government both accepted the resolution and dealt with it positively.

Allow me, Sir, to review the measures taken by the Iraqi Government to implement the provisions of that resolution in fulfilment of its obligations under it.

First, as regards section A, on the demarcation of the boundary between Iraq and Kuwait, the Iraqi Government designated a representative to attend meetings of the demarcation Committee, which held its first meetings in New York on 23 and 24 May this year. The representative of Iraq participated effectively and constructively in the work of that session.

Secondly, as regards section B, concerning the deployment of observers in the area between Iraq and Kuwait, the Iraqi authorities on a number of occasions received in Baghdad the head of the observer team, Major-General Gunther Greindl, and his assistants following his appointment, and steps on the deployment of the team in the demilitarized zone were agreed in May.

(Mr. Al-Nima, Iraq)

There is constant cooperation between the competent Iraqi authorities and the observer team, through the proper channels, as well as between those authorities and the head of the team and the United Nations Secretariat.

Thirdly, as regards section C of the resolution, which called for the implementation of the obligation to destroy weapons of mass destruction and not to use, develop or possess such weapons, Iraq has deposited ratification documents in which it accepts the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) Weapons of 10 April 1972, as well as its unconditional obligations under the Geneva Protocol of 17 June 1925 for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare. The Iraqi Government has presented information concerning the locations, quantities and types of chemical weapons and ballistic missiles and has agreed to submit to on-site inspection, in accordance with the resolution. Iraq has also undertaken the unconditional obligation not to use, develop, manufacture or acquire any of the material referred to in the resolution. It has confirmed the obligation it has assumed under the non-proliferation Treaty of 1968. Iraq has unconditionally agreed not to produce or possess nuclear weapons or any materials that could be used to manufacture such weapons. Iraq has also notified the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of the message by the Foreign Minister dated 27 April 1991 in which he expressed Iraq's willingness to cooperate in the implementation of the provisions of the resolution; annexed to the message were tables giving information on the nuclear facilities in Iraq. Detailed data on the situation regarding other weapons referred to in the resolution have been given to the Special Commission established in connection with the implementation of section C of the resolution.

(Mr. Al-Nima, Iraq)

In a letter to the Secretary-General in May 1991 Iraq expressed its agreement to the proposals concerning immunities and privileges for the Special Committee and its teams that would visit Iraq. The special inspection team on nuclear weapons visited Iraq between 14 and 22 May 1991. On 23 May 1991 the IAEA, in a statement, confirmed that the Iraqi side had cooperated fully with the inspection team and acceded to all its requests. The special inspection team on chemical weapons, accompanied by the Chairman of the Special Commission, started its mission with a visit to Iraq between 9 and 15 June. Iraq provided the inspection team with all the means necessary to ensure the success of its mission.

With regard to section D of the resolution, concerning the return of Kuwaiti property, Mr. Richard Foran, an Assistant Secretary-General, visited Iraq twice in May 1991. The Iraqi authorities expressed their willingness to return property about which it had notified the United Nations Secretariat. Actually, one civil aircraft belonging to Kuwait was handed over in Amman on 11 May 1991. Mr. Foran visited the sites and other locations and inspected the gold coins and banknotes, the antiquities and books, and the civil aircraft that were to be returned to Kuwait after agreement was reached on the place of delivery. Mr. Foran regarded the aforementioned items as having priority. There can be no doubt that the same treatment would apply to other Kuwaiti property.

Fifthly, as regards sections E and F of the resolution, concerning compensation and the lifting of sanctions, no measures are required by Iraq.

As for section G, measures continue to be taken by the Iraqi authorities in connection with the return of all Kuwaiti and third-country nationals to their countries of origin. Iraq has provided a list containing the names of

(Mr. Al-Nima, Iraq)

such persons. A mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross was given access to the locations in Baghdad where these persons were being detained. It should be noted that 6,366 persons have been freed and repatriated. Among these, 6,289 were Kuwaitis, 36 Americans, 5 Italians, 13 Saudis, 17 French, 1 Spaniard, 2 Brazilians, 1 Norwegian, 1 Uruguayan and 1 Irish. The Iraqi authorities are still carrying out research to find the missing from among the Coalition countries so that they can be returned to their countries after registration by the mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The competent Iraqi authorities have facilitated the task of the International Committee of the Red Cross in directly registering the Kuwaiti nationals in Iraq. More than 3,000 Kuwaitis have thus been registered. The remains of 15 persons have been returned to the Coalition countries.

As for section H of the resolution, concerning international terrorism, the following should be noted.

Iraq has participated with the international community in efforts to combat international terrorism. It should be noted that the draft resolution which was adopted by the General Assembly on 9 December 1985 as resolution 40/61 was adopted in the Sixth Committee under the chairmanship of Iraq during the fortieth session of the Assembly. The representatives of many countries expressed their appreciation of the efforts made by Iraq to that end. Moreover, Iraq is a party to some of the most important international conventions dealing with crimes of terrorism, such as the Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft, signed at Tokyo in 1963; the Convention on the prevention of hijacking, signed at The Hague in 1970; the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety

(Mr. Al-Nima, Iraq)

of Civil Aviation, signed in Montreal in 1971; and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, signed in New York in 1973. Iraq also took part in the final stages of the drafting of the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, adopted in New York in 1979.

(Mr. Al-Nima, Iraq)

Moreover, Iraqi legislation approaches terrorist crimes from two angles: prevention and punishment. Iraq's penal code does not view terrorist crimes as political crimes.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq does not pursue any policy with respect to international terrorism that runs counter to international law. As stated previously, its position is consistent with that of most members of the international community. In his letter dated 11 June 1991 addressed to the Secretary-General in accordance with paragraph 32 of resolution 687 (1991), our Foreign Minister confirmed that Iraq would commit no act that could be considered international terrorism or permit any organization intending to commit such an act to operate within its territory, and that Iraq condemns unequivocally and renounces all acts, methods and practices of terrorism.

My country's Government wishes to affirm its absolute readiness to cooperate with respect to the implementation of section C of resolution 687 (1991) and its desire not to raise any obstacle to implementation of the resolution. Unfortunately, my Government notes that paragraph 4 of draft resolution S/22686, concerning adoption of the Secretary-General's plan for the implementation of section C of resolution 687 (1991), makes the Government of Iraq liable for all the costs of carrying out the tasks entrusted to the Secretary-General. My Government rejects liability for the cost of destroying the chemical weapons. On the other hand, it affirms its willingness to cooperate and by its own efforts voluntarily to destroy or render harmless the said weapons. It has at its disposal the necessary expertise and technical facilities to do so in a way that will achieve the desired objective under the supervision and to the satisfaction of United Nations experts. My Government is prepared to discuss this subject with United Nations experts in order to

(Mr. Al-Nima, Iraq)

confirm the destruction plan formulated by its technicians and to establish the plan's exact details by carrying out practical tests and determining what additional measures the destruction will require, together with any additional input of resources, in accordance with internationally accepted procedures in this regard.

Participating in this way will reduce the cost of destruction and the period of time required for the implementation of the destruction plan and also reduce the dangers arising during the destruction process, especially at a time of extremely hot and dusty local weather conditions.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of Iraq for the kind words he addressed to me.

It is my understanding that the Council is now ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolutions before it. Unless I hear any objection I shall put the draft resolutions to the vote in the order of their submission.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I now put to the vote the draft resolution contained in document S/22686.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour: Austria, Belgium, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ecuador, France, India, Romania, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Yemen, Zaire, Zimbabwe

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has thus been adopted unanimously as resolution 699 (1991).

I now put to the vote the draft resolution contained in document S/22698.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour: Austria, Belgium, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ecuador, France, India, Romania, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Yemen, Zaire, Zimbabwe

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has thus been adopted unanimously as resolution 700 (1991).

I shall now call on members of the Council who wish to make statements following the voting.

Mr. AL-ASHTAL (Yemen) (interpretation from Arabic): Let me begin, Sir, by congratulating you most warmly on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month and on the wise leadership, skill and enthusiasm you have already displayed during your tenure.

I wish also to thank the Permanent Representative of China, who conducted the affairs of the Council last month with success.

We listened to the statement by the representative of Iraq and have read his letter addressed to the Secretary-General (S/22682), and are thus aware that Iraq is prepared to cooperate in the implementation of section C of resolution 687 (1991) through the plan the Council has just approved in its resolution 699 (1991). This follows upon Iraq's acceptance on 6 April 1991 of resolution 687 (1991) and of its implementation.

It was natural for my delegation to vote in favour of resolution 699 (1991), but I should like to state the following. When the delegation of Yemen abstained in the vote on resolution 687 (1991), with particular concern about its section C relating to the destruction of weapons of mass destruction,

(Mr. Al-Ashtal, Yemen)

we indicated that for the sake of maintaining international peace and security in the region we thought it essential to deal with the question of disarmament and the destruction of weapons of mass destruction on the basis of the entire region, not only for a single country.

(Mr. Al-Ashtal, Yemen)

It is well known that Israel possesses large quantities of chemical, bacteriological and nuclear weapons. Other countries in the area possess similar weapons. We believe that regional peace and security can be maintained only through a policy conducive to disarmament in the region as a whole. To deal with this problem by addressing one country exclusively, irrespective of the reasons for such an approach, would definitely lead to a military imbalance in the region, thus jeopardizing peace and security there. That is why we had hoped and wished that the question of disarmament would be considered in a broader perspective. We now hope that this is just the beginning and that similar measures will be taken regarding weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

Secondly, as regards paragraph 4 of the resolution, we believe that it is unjust to call upon Iraq to defray the costs of destroying these weapons, because the process of destruction itself has been imposed on Iraq and that country is currently experiencing a critical economic situation as a result of the embargo and the sanctions imposed on it since 6 August 1990. We have seen the reports prepared by such neutral circles as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Harvard University mission, which show that the sanctions have led to serious difficulty for and harm to the Iraqi people, including the children. In addition to all the other victims of this destructive war, there are the Iraqi people, including the children. That is why we do not see any justification for calling on Iraq to bear the responsibility for paying for the destruction of these weapons.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of Yemen for his kind words addressed to me.

Mr. ZAMORA RODRIGUEZ (Cuba) (interpretation from Spanish): As this is my delegation's first statement at a formal meeting of the Council this month, permit me, Sir, to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of this body. I wish to convey to you how pleased we are to see you guiding our work during a month which is complex and full of activities, not only because of the relationship of friendship which unites our countries and Missions, but also because your diplomatic skills and the frank and open manner in which you conduct our deliberations will facilitate our task of achieving the most fruitful results possible in June.

I should also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ambassador Li Daoyu, the Permanent Representative of China, for his leadership during the month of May. It is only elementary justice to note that it was owing to his perseverance and skilful work that the Council was able to take actions under his presidency for the maintenance of international peace and security, which is the Council's mandate under the Charter.

I should like to comment on resolution 700 (1991), which we have just adopted. First, our delegation deems it a mistake to have decided to entrust to the Committee set up under resolution 661 (1991) the function of supervising compliance with the sanctions in the area of weapons laid down in paragraph 24 of resolution 687 (1991). In Cuba's opinion - and as we had occasion to express during the bilateral consultations held by the Secretariat with a view to preparing the report in document S/22660, and subsequently during the informal consultations held by members of the Council a few days ago - the task of supervising the arms embargo against Iraq should have been entrusted to an organ set up for that purpose, not to the body which already exists for supervising economic sanctions.

(Mr. Zamora Rodriguez, Cuba)

My delegation is convinced that the economic sanctions, which first and foremost have an intolerable effect on the civilian population of Iraq, and which may give rise to consequences of unforeseen magnitude and seriousness, as has been clearly indicated by university researchers and the expert missions of the Organization itself, should speedily be lifted - indeed they should have been lifted - whereas the military sanctions embodied in the arms embargo could last for quite a long time and will be characterized by a complex array of features. We believe that during the period in which the two types of sanctions are dealt with by the same body we will experience various technical difficulties which will bring excessive pressure to bear on the so-called Committee on Sanctions.

Furthermore, the fact that there is no list of the products and materials subject to the embargo could possibly lead to excessive flexibility. This will not only complicate the work of the organ which supervises the implementation of paragraph 24 of resolution 687 (1991), but may also lead to confusion, whether intended or not, with regard to so-called dual-purpose materials whose import into Iraq would be prohibited. While we are the first to understand that the drafting of a list would be a difficult and lengthy task, such a list would have the merit of allowing us clearly to differentiate between materials for military uses and those which are not. This would be particularly useful when the economic sanctions under resolution 661 (1990) are lifted.

(Mr. Zamora Rodriguez, Cuba)

There are some elements of the Secretary-General's report (S/22660) on which we would like to comment. First, in paragraph 6 of the guidelines proposed by the Secretary-General, one of the functions of the Committee is to provide guidance to States and to international organizations on matters concerning the implementation of paragraph 24 of resolution 687 (1991) through the elaboration, as necessary, of relevant criteria. It also makes clear that the Committee, when needed, will reach agreed interpretations of items falling within the specified categories of proscribed items and activities. It seems to us that these functions are legislative in nature and that they would fall more readily within the purview of the Security Council than of one of its subsidiary bodies.

In another respect, in paragraph 10 of the report, under the heading entitled "Principles of implementation", we read that:

> "Nothing in the present guidelines will preclude any State or group of States from adopting further measures aimed at achieving effective implementation of the arms and related sanctions against Iraq, in accordance with the relevant provisions of resolution 687 (1991)".

In our view, this paragraph should not be interpreted as an invitation to impose unilateral measures that could go beyond the resolution itself, the provisions of which are binding on all States. However, although Cuba has stated and continues to express its agreement on the arms embargo against Iraq, my delegation believes that we should not miss the opportunity offered by the post-war period to facilitate in the Middle East - where the ratio of weapons to inhabitants is one of the highest in the world - agreements on security, disarmament and arms control which include all countries of the region without exception and which would constitute a natural corollary to

(Mr. Zamora Rodriguez, Cuba)

serious and equitable efforts aimed at a just and lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, and in particular the Palestinian question, which is at its core.

I should now like to refer to resolution 699 (1991), which we have just adopted, on the destruction of specific types of weapons in Iraq in accordance with the provisions of section C of resolution 687 (1991). Although in the course of consultations among members of the Council attempts were made to answer questions raised by some delegations - and I appreciate those efforts - some elements contained in the resolution continue to be of concern.

First, we are concerned about the fact that the Secretary-General's report and the plan presented to us in compliance with paragraph 9 (b) of resolution 687 (1991), contained in document S/22614, has not included a specific timetable for the destruction or removal of weapons and materials in Iraq referred to in section C of the resolution. We understand the technical complexities of such activities, but the fact of not having a provisional timetable for these activities runs the risk that the process will be continued and create additional difficulties for the Iraqi people to return to a normal life and for the country to recover its sovereignty.

Cuba is of the view - and it has so stated in the relevant bodies considering international agreements on the elimination of weapons of mass destruction - that each country should bear all the costs of destroying its own weapons. However, in the light of the request made to the Secretary-General in operative paragraph 4 of the resolution just adopted that he submit to the Council within 30 days for approval recommendations as to the most effective means by which Iraq's obligations in this respect may be fulfilled, we should not lose sight of that country's real capacity to pay, bearing in mind the sanctions regime still in place and the fact that once it

(Mr. Zamora Rodriguez, Cuba)

is lifted Iraq will have to contribute to the compensation fund in accordance with amounts established by the governing council on the basis of the uppermost limits the Security Council may determine in due time.

Furthermore, we wish to state very clearly that, according to my delegation's interpretation, the assistance encouraged in operative paragraph 4 of the resolution is strictly voluntary in nature and in no way entails establishing any financing mechanism which would entail obligations for Member States in accordance with Article 17 of the Charter.

In connection with the item now under consideration, Sir, I recall the letter dated 19 April that I had the honour to address to the President for that month, the Permanent Representative of Belgium, reiterating the positions of my country at the time of the adoption of resolution 687 (1991), especially with regard to the selectivity in the area of the destruction and elimination of certain types of weapons.

It is well known that Cuba is in favour of the universal elimination of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and all means of delivery, including ballistic missiles. In that context, it is our firmest belief that the elimination of these types of weapons and means of delivery, instead of having been imposed selectively on Iraq, should be imposed in a regional context without exception based on political or other considerations and should have included Israel, a country which not only possesses weapons of mass destruction but also maintains a policy of aggression in the Middle East in defiance of Security Council decisions.

We are pleased to see that other members of the Council concur with our views on the elimination of these types of weapons and military means, as can be seen in documents recently issued.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of Cuba for his kind words addressed to me.

There are no further speakers on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.

UNITED
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Security Council

PROVISIONAL

S/PV.2995
26 June 1991

ENGLISH

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWO THOUSAND
NINE HUNDRED AND NINETY-FIFTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 26 June 1991, at 6.35 p.m.

President:	Mr. BECHIO	(Côte d'Ivoire)
Members:	Austria	Mr. HOHENFELLNER
	Belgium	Mr. NOTERDAEME
	China	Mr. JIN Yongjian
	Cuba	Mr. ZAMORA RODRIGUEZ
	Ecuador	Mr. POSSO SERRANO
	France	Mr. MERIMEE
	India	Mr. MENON
	Romania	Mr. MUNTEANU
	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	Mr. VORONTSOV
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. RICHARDSON
	United States of America	Mr. WATSON
	Yemen	Mr. AL-ASHTAL
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The meeting was called to order at 6.45 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

THE SITUATION BETWEEN IRAQ AND KUWAIT

LETTER DATED 26 JUNE 1991 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (S/22739)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Iraq in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In accordance with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Al-Anbari (Iraq) took a place at the Council table.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them a letter dated 26 June 1991 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council, (S/22739).

Mr. WATSON (United States of America): Let me first congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of your office and the manner in which you have conducted it thus far this month. I extend my congratulations also to your predecessor, Ambassador Li of China.

My delegation appreciates very much the Secretary-General's letter of this morning enclosing the shocking reports from Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission, and Dr. Hans Blix, the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), concerning the treatment accorded to the IAEA and Special Commission nuclear inspection team by the Government of Iraq over the last five days. Those reports indicate incontrovertibly that the Government of Iraq has obstructed the work of the inspection team in carrying out the mandate to implement the destruction, removal or rendering useless of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. The members of the Security Council have also seen other evidence that confirms fully the findings presented by Ambassador Ekeus and Dr. Blix.

It is patently clear that Iraq is engaged in nuclear deception. The United States is deeply dismayed by the Iraqi régime's unmistakable flouting of its obligations under United Nations Security Council resolution 687 (1991). This calls into serious question other commitments and reports the Government of Iraq has purportedly made in compliance with resolution 687 (1991). This incident, however, is only one example of Iraqi failure to abide by its obligations under United Nations Security Council resolution 687 (1991).

The specific case at hand involves Iraqi deception with regard to its nuclear-weapons-related activities. Paragraph 12 of resolution 687 (1991) obligates Iraq to cooperate with the Special Commission and the IAEA. Iraq is

(Mr. Watson, United States)

required to facilitate, and cooperate with any and all on-site inspections the Special Commission and the IAEA deem necessary. Resolution 687 (1991) also requires Iraq to declare all items related to the production of nuclear-weapons-usable material. Iraq accepted these obligations when it accepted resolution 687 (1991), thereby setting the stage for the Council to declare that a ceasefire had gone into effect. In addition, the Iraqi Government, in letters to the Secretary-General - most recently on 11 June - has pledged to cooperate with the Special Commission and the IAEA.

Despite its obligations and assurances, Iraq has acted to subvert the letter and the spirit of the provisions of resolution 687 (1991). There is ample evidence from multiple sources that Iraq has been conducting a covert nuclear programme that has included activities related to the production of nuclear-weapons-usuable material. We know that Iraq was carrying out its nuclear programme at a series of sites. Prior to the IAEA/Special Commission inspections, Iraq began to dismantle its nuclear infrastructure. We know that some of this equipment was moved to the Abu Gharaib site. The Special Commission and IAEA have been fully briefed on this information and on our belief that the Abu Gharaib facility was being used as a temporary storage site for equipment from Iraq's undeclared uranium-enrichment programme.

As the briefing members of the Security Council received this morning made clear, equipment associated with an undeclared Iraqi uranium-enrichment programme was at that site prior to 22 June. Iraq is required under Security Council resolution 687 (1991) to declare and make such equipment available for inspection. Instead, that equipment has been removed. Even as Iraqi work crews were frantically removing the equipment, Iraqi officials were barring

(Mr. Watson, United States)

the Security Council-mandated inspection team access to that site. At one point the team had to move aside to allow the heavy moving equipment to proceed into the site. Only now, after it has spent several days removing equipment and material, has Iraq allowed the inspection team access to the site. This does not constitute compliance with resolution 687 (1991). This is obstructionism combined with an attempt to conceal equipment that Iraq is required to make available for inspection and appropriate treatment.

The episode at Abu Gharaib reveals a consistent pattern of Iraqi Government deceit and obfuscation on this issue. We have indisputable evidence, drawn from many sources, that Iraq has been seeking to produce unsafeguarded nuclear material and to acquire nuclear weapons, contrary to its obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty and its full-scope safeguards agreement with the IAEA. Our evidence includes - but is not limited to - statements from a former Iraqi nuclear official, the results of the IAEA/Special Commission inspection in May, the long record of Iraqi attempts illegally to acquire sensitive nuclear items from abroad, and photographs, some of which members of the Council have seen.

There are additional sites associated with Iraq's nuclear-weapons programme. Abu Gharaib was merely a storage site. We have confirmed the existence of an extensive nuclear infrastructure in Iraq, including a number of facilities intended for the production of weapons-grade nuclear material and for the development of nuclear weapons. While the war apparently interrupted operations at these sites, Iraq remains obliged under Security Council resolution 687 (1991) to provide a prompt and complete declaration of all such nuclear facilities and items to the IAEA and the Special Commission.

(Mr. Watson, United States)

Instead, Iraq has tried to conceal as much of its nuclear-weapons programme as possible, moving key items away from nuclear sites into temporary storage at other locations. Clearly, if Security Council resolution 687 (1991) is to have any meaning, the Council must ensure that Iraq grants the IAEA and Special Commission inspection teams full and immediate access to designated sites. The Council must also ensure that Iraq provide a complete declaration of all of its nuclear-weapons-related items, including those items that were spirited away from Abu Gharaib.

This episode demonstrates that Iraq has been doing everything it can to conceal the full extent of its unsafeguarded nuclear-enrichment programme, which we believe is directed towards development of nuclear weapons. The Council needs to recognize that the stark nature of Iraqi deception in this area calls into serious question the accuracy of Iraqi declarations with respect to other items, facilities and materials proscribed under the provisions of resolution 687 (1991), as well as Iraq's intent to comply fully with the resolution's mandate.

Given the example in the nuclear field, are we to believe the Iraqi Government's outright denial of the existence of a biological weapons programme? We have reason to believe the contrary. Given the example in the nuclear field, are we to believe that the Iraqis have faithfully declared their holdings of long-range ballistic missiles and chemical munitions? We have reason to believe the contrary. In fact, Iraq has underreported its ballistic missile and chemical warfare stocks and it denies it has a biological capability. There is also strong evidence that the Iraqis have attempted to hide substantial portions of their missile and chemical munition infrastructure from access by the United Nations Special Commission.

(Mr. Watson, United States)

The Council has recently completed a review of Iraq's policies and practices and its performance record regarding implementation of resolution 687 (1991). Wisely, the Security Council made no decision to lift the economic sanctions that remain in place against Iraq. So long as Iraq fails to comply fully and unequivocally with the requirements of resolution 687 (1991), the Council should not consider altering those sanctions.

Iraq must declare and make available for scrutiny any and all other nuclear-weapons-related equipment and material. Iraq must also make a full accounting of its ballistic-missile-and-other-weapons-of-mass-destruction capabilities. Iraq must provide full and complete access for the Security Council-mandated Inspection Teams to that material and to all sites associated with this programme. Anything less makes hollow Iraqi commitments to abide by all the provisions of the resolution.

Furthermore, the Security Council must reiterate its determination to ensure that Iraq complies with the Council's binding decisions. Let us be direct and clear: Iraq must comply fully with all the provisions of resolution 687 (1991), including its provisions on nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and ballistic missiles. In this regard, the equipment removed from the Abu Gharaib site must be declared and made available to the IAEA and the Special Commission for inspection.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of the United States for the kind words he addressed to me.

Mr. MERIMEE (France) (interpretation from French): The French delegation most strongly deplores the fact that the Iraqi Government has hindered the proper functioning of the Nuclear Inspection Team now in Iraq,

(Mr. Merimee, France)

thus violating several provisions of resolutions 687 (1991) and 699 (1991), despite Iraq's undertakings in that respect.

Paragraphs 12 and 13 of resolution 687 (1991) are clear. Iraq is forbidden to acquire or develop nuclear weapons or nuclear-weapons-usable material or any subsystems or components or any research, development, support or manufacturing facilities related to the above.

To carry out his inspection mission in that connection, the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), with the support and cooperation of the Special Commission, is entitled to carry out on-site inspections, even on sites not declared by Iraq. Such access, at any time and in any place, to sites declared by the Iraqi authorities or not, is the condition for the success of the verification mission under way in Iraq. Such access, free and unconditional, was therefore specified in the Secretary-General's plan for the implementation of section C of resolution 687 (1991), which the Council adopted in its resolution 699 (1991).

It is true that the Iraqi Government has permitted the Inspection Team to enter the site, but the fact remains that four days were lost, four days during which possible traces of impermissible activities could have been eliminated. That Iraqi violation of several provisions of resolutions 687 (1991) and 699 (1991) is extremely serious and must never be repeated.

If necessary, the Security Council would have to consider any further breach by the Iraqi Government and take the measures necessary to ensure close cooperation between Iraq and the Special Commission and the IAEA, whether their inspections are announced or unannounced.

Mr. NOTERDAEME (Belgium) (interpretation from French): At the outset I should like to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for June. You have already amply demonstrated your qualities and experience in guiding the work of the Council.

I wish also to congratulate your predecessor, the representative of China, Ambassador Li Daoyu, on the skill with which he discharged his duties last month.

This morning, like other members of the Council, I read the letters addressed to the Secretary-General by Ambassador Ekeus and the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mr. Blix. They call attention to a most serious matter: the Special Commission established pursuant to section C of resolution 687 (1991) was prevented from inspecting an Iraqi site, in violation of the binding provisions of paragraph 12 of resolution 687 (1991).

This morning too members of the Council were informed about certain factors that establish the presumption that Iraq is attempting to conceal the existence of an ability to produce fissionable materials. That would be a blatant violation of the obligations set out in paragraph 12 of resolution 687 (1991).

We shall read with great interest the report to which Mr. Blix refers in his letter of 26 June. That additional report by Mr. Zifferero, Chief IAEA Inspector, who participated in the recent mission to Iraq, should enable us fully to assess Iraqi obstruction in this matter. We expect the Iraqi authorities speedily to make the necessary arrangements to inform the Special Commission about the site to which the equipment seen during the first attempt to inspect the Abu Gharaib Army Barracks has been transported.

(Mr. Noterdaeme, Belgium)

We welcome the convening of this formal meeting of the Security Council to consider these events. This is a serious matter that should be brought to the attention of the international community and world public opinion.

We earnestly hope, Mr. President, that you will formally remind Iraq of its obligations under Security Council resolutions, and particularly under paragraph 12 of resolution 687 (1991), which obliges Iraq to submit to all inspections demanded by the Special Commission and the IAEA, and which reaffirms the prohibition of any nuclear production capacity for military purposes.

In our view, by shirking its responsibilities in this case Iraq has called into question its formal undertaking to respect all the provisions of resolution 687 (1991). We cannot fail to be deeply disturbed by this development.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of Belgium for the kind words he addressed to me.

Mr. HOHENFELLNER (Austria): Like previous speakers I cannot but voice the concern of my Government about what appears to have been an effort by Iraq to deny an International Atomic Energy Agency/Special Commission Inspection Team unhindered and immediate access to a designated site in Baghdad and to remove objects that had previously been seen there by the Team.

This is a grave violation of Iraq's obligations under resolution 687 (1991) which cannot be tolerated by this Council. We urge the Iraqi authorities not to repeat or continue their uncooperative attitude, but rather to comply fully with their obligations and to realize that anything less would entail unwelcome consequences.

Mr. RICHARDSON (United Kingdom): We have before us the letters of Ambassador Ekeus and Dr. Blix of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). They are very clear. Indeed, they could not be clearer. They demonstrate that Iraq has violated paragraphs 12 and 13 of resolution 687 (1991). They demonstrate that Iraq has violated its own acceptance of that resolution, and they demonstrate also that Iraq has violated the exchange of letters which its Government signed with the Special Commission.

The letters also make clear that there has been some frenzied activity on the site in question during the last few days and that equipment has been hastily removed from that site, and although I take note of the fact that the inspection took place on a religious holiday, I am bound to say that that does not seem to have hindered the speed and promptness with which Iraqi personnel have acted during those days.

This Council created the Special Commission and this Council gave it a very specific mandate, which was to locate and destroy all Iraq's nuclear-capable material, as well as all its chemical and biological weapons and all ballistic missiles over a certain range.

The Council has to support the Special Commission in its work and to do so quickly. They will have many other inspections to carry out in the near future and they need to be assured of prompt access to designated sites wherever and whenever they want.

In my delegation's view therefore, the message from this Council must be twofold: first, that Iraq must never again obstruct the work of the Special Commission and of the IAEA, and, secondly, that the Iraqi authorities at the highest appropriate level must be called upon to reaffirm their commitment to cooperate fully with the Special Commission and the IAEA, not just in word but in deed.

Mr. POSSO SERRANO (Ecuador) (interpretation from Spanish): The delegation of Ecuador is very pleased to see you, Sir, presiding over our deliberations. Our thanks go also to your predecessor, the Permanent Representative of China, who discharged his duties with such ability last month.

The inspection of Iraqi nuclear facilities is an inescapable prerequisite for the destruction, neutralization or removal of Iraq's nuclear arsenal. It is fundamental that the Government of Baghdad, in expressly accepting resolution 687 (1991) committed itself not only to allow but, what is more, to help in the collection of all information regarding the location of nuclear sites, their elements and components and to cooperate in the preparation of a plan that would be in keeping with Iraq's obligations under the provisions of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of 1968, and to allow permanent inspection and verification in the future.

The delegation of Ecuador does not want to venture any speculations regarding Iraq's failure to comply with these obligations. We do not want to infer any ulterior motive to interfere with the destruction, removal or neutralization of nuclear facilities that might be capable of producing weapons of this kind.

Ecuador would not like to conclude that Iraq's position regarding the Special Commission is a demonstration of the position the Iraqi Government will take on all the other obligations under resolution 687 (1991), nor do we wish to believe that the Government of Baghdad has any intention of trying to evade the nuclear embargo. Though as a matter of principle Ecuador can accept that Iraq's position in this matter is out of keeping with the circumstances and can be immediately rectified, we believe that Iraq must try to appreciate

(Mr. Posso Serrano, Ecuador)

the risks involved in this position in the opinion of its neighbours.

Ecuador would therefore support an appeal to the Government of Baghdad that it fully comply with this and other obligations stemming from resolution 687 (1991). We believe that there is an overriding need for Iraq to spare its civilian population any further anguish and to realize the implications of resolution 687 (1991) for the strengthening of peace and stability in the region, which has been subjected to such great suffering because of the arms race and the constant threat of force.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of Ecuador for the kind words he addressed to me.

Mr. MUNTEANU (Romania): Mr. President, allow me first to congratulate you on the manner in which you are conducting the work of the Council this month, and also to extend our thanks to Ambassador Li Daoyu of China for the way in which he guided the Council's activities last month.

My delegation supported the urgent convening of the Security Council in a formal meeting because of the serious nature of the information which has been brought to our attention in connection with Iraq's implementation of some specific provisions of resolution 687 (1991).

Since the very first days and weeks of the crisis in the Gulf, Romania has consistently advocated Iraq's full implementation of all resolutions adopted by the Security Council. In recent months we have had the occasion to reiterate our position in that respect while working with other members of the Security Council on various sections of resolution 687 (1991).

This time the Secretary-General submitted to the Council some documentation strengthened further by additional data on the difficulties

(Mr. Munteanu, Romania)

which have emerged in the cooperation between Iraq and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and the Special Commission nuclear inspection team appointed pursuant to part C of Security Council resolution 687 (1991). In fact, this international team was denied access to designated facilities which the Government of Iraq had been notified to submit to urgent on-site inspection in accordance with the terms of resolution 687 (1991).

From the documentation submitted by the Secretary-General we have learned that the Iraqi authorities have denied the international team access to the locations and facilities which the team wished to inspect. I will not go into additional detail, as other speakers have already provided clarification.

My delegation wishes to express its serious concern that in spite of their earlier promises the Iraqi authorities have not fulfilled their obligations in so important and sensitive a field as the nuclear one.

At a time when the question of the elimination of nuclear weapons is perhaps more topical than ever, the preoccupation of my Government with Iraq's fulfillment of its obligation not to possess or acquire nuclear weapons and to accept international inspections of all its nuclear facilities, is a legitimate one. Such concerns and apprehensions are indeed legitimate and well founded, as the area of the Persian Gulf is not so distant from our own geographic area, which we are making every effort to keep free from nuclear weapons.

To summarize, we fully share the grave concern expressed by the Secretary-General over the recent events in Iraq. We therefore support the appeal addressed to Iraq that it implement fully and in good faith the relevant provisions of resolution 687 (1991), and in particular those authorizing on-site international inspections.

(Mr. Munteanu, Romania)

The Iraqi Government should understand that it is in its own interest to make every effort to comply, without hesitation or reservations, with its international obligations. Iraq has to prove by its actual conduct that there is harmony between its deeds and its statements. It is only through honest behaviour, strictly consistent with the Security Council resolutions, that Iraq can illustrate its peaceful intentions and resume its place among peace-loving members of the international community.

It is in the light of those considerations that my delegation joins other delegations in asking Iraq to demonstrate its wisdom and sense of realism by respecting and implementing, beyond any shadow of a doubt, the relevant Security Council resolutions.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I call on the representative of Iraq.

Mr. AL-ANBARI (Iraq): I should like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on the wise and courteous way in which you are guiding the Council's proceedings. I wish also to express my thanks and admiration to your predecessor, Ambassador Li of China.

Since the Security Council adopted its resolution 687 (1991) on 3 April, Iraq has accepted it and has done its best to implement all the requirements and obligations imposed on it by the resolution. We have cooperated with all United Nations agencies, commissions and missions, and we have evidence to prove this. We have done so particularly with the Commission entrusted with the task of destroying all the weapons of mass destruction and other weapons mentioned in the resolution - and this has been true from the very first day.

The IAEA mission had visited Iraq before and made it very clear to the public that it was very appreciative of the cooperation by the Iraqi authorities.

(Mr. Al-Anbari, Iraq)

During the IAEA mission's second visit - the current one - Iraq has also extended full cooperation. The mission has visited a number of sites. It was only the last one that could not be made available to it - for one day, for practical reasons. May I remind the members of the Security Council that Iraq's entire communication system has been destroyed. The military base that the mission wanted to inspect is far from the centre of Baghdad and was not easy to reach by telephone or telex; there simply were no communications. I would also remind the members of the Council that the Commission insisted - and Iraq responded positively - that Iraq should put at its disposal all the facilities it required, including transportation and interpretation. So if we are asking the Commission to give us advance notice, it is because we need such notice simply to provide the facilities asked for by it.

I believe that no fair-minded person could draw the conclusion that the fact that the inspection was delayed for one day means that Iraq acted in bad faith or intended to remove certain prohibited materials. If Iraq had had such an intention, it would not have waited for more than 80 days since the adoption of the resolution on 3 April to take such action - and, after all, it knew that the Commission was in Baghdad to inspect various sites.

I fully understand the concern and interest of the members of the Council. Indeed, the issue is very sensitive and very critical. But I really feel that, given the lack of concrete evidence of the non-cooperation of the Iraqi authorities with the IAEA mission, we are faced with a non-issue. Iraq is fully cooperating and will continue to do so. We have made our commitment, and there is no way of going back on it.

That is why I am a bit perplexed about the motive behind this campaign. Is it to prepare world public opinion for another military attack against Iraq, like the one that took place in the past? Is it to perpetuate the

(Mr. Al-Anbari, Iraq)

economic sanctions imposed on the people of Iraq, including the children? Or is the campaign designed to justify the occupation of the northern part of Iraq? I hope that none of this will turn out to be true, but I have to wait and see.

Perhaps the best answer would be for Iraq's commitment to be confirmed at the highest level - and I remember that one representative made such a request. So, with your permission, Mr. President, I shall now read out parts of the statement issued this morning by our Foreign Minister in Baghdad. He said:

(spoke in Arabic)

"Some diplomatic sources have claimed that Iraq has denied the Special Commission of the United Nations access to one of its nuclear facilities near Baghdad in order to inspect it, and that the United Nations was not officially informed of its existence. This is a fabrication, meant to put Iraq and its clear position of cooperation with the United Nations in ill repute on purpose.

"The correct information is the following:

"The inspection team requested to be allowed to visit Iraq and to inspect the nuclear material and facilities during the Holy Day of the Feast of the Sacrifice. We said that the Feast of the Sacrifice is an official holiday; indeed, it is one of the most important religious holidays for Muslims in Iraq and throughout the world. Therefore, we advised the inspection team to postpone the visit until after the holiday. Arabs and Muslims respect the holidays of others, and others should respect our holidays, including our religious holidays. However, the inspection team insisted on its position and said that it wanted to

(Mr. Al-Anbari, Iraq)

come to Baghdad to deliver a letter to the Iraqi Foreign Minister. When it reached Iraq, I interrupted my holiday and received the team in the evening of 22 June - the first day of the Feast of the Sacrifice. I received the letter.

"During the meeting, the inspection team said that it wanted to visit a site near Baghdad. It turned out to be a military site within a military zone composed of this and other such sites coming under the Ministry of Defence and not the Ministry of Industry and Mineralogy.

"Despite the difficulties - most of the officials in these places were enjoying the holiday - we did our best to obtain the agreement of the military authorities so that the inspection team could visit that site.

"When the team reached the site, it wanted to visit other sites within the same military zone. We could not secure the approval of the officer-in-charge, because he had not received instructions to allow anyone to go to those sites. It is a well-known practice in all countries that military sites cannot be visited without approval being obtained through the normal procedures.

(Mr. Al-Anbari, Iraq)

"In his statement the Minister said that, when we heard from the Team that it could not visit the other sites it wanted to visit, we gave the reasons and we contacted the Iraqi authorities concerned and requested them to give instructions to the officer-in-charge in order to allow the Inspection Team to visit these sites.

"The visit to the said sites was arranged as of 7 a.m. on 26 June, Baghdad time.

"In his statement the Minister said that the Inspection Team of the United Nations visited on 23 June 1991 the sites belonging to the IAEA. The Team also requested, on 25 June, to visit two other sites belonging to the Ministry of Industry, and the Iraqi authorities agreed promptly and easily because the request of the Team was clear and definitive. This is the clearest evidence of Iraqi cooperation with the United Nations; and it is proof which belies those who try to fish in troubled waters in order to serve their interests.

"The Minister also confirmed the established position of Iraq based on cooperation with the United Nations and the Secretary-General and he said that the United Nations Team confirmed in its press statement after its visit to the country from 9 to 14 June that it could not prove the existence of any undeclared activities relating to the biological and nuclear capacity of Iraq and missiles and the sites. The Team did not find any indication that Iraq is trying on purpose to mislead the Mission. The position of the Iraqi authorities was a position of cooperation."

(Mr. Al-Anbari, Iraq)

The Minister also said that Iraq observes a very clear position based on cooperation with all authorities and bodies sent by the Secretary-General and the United Nations to Iraq and, therefore, the Iraqi authorities concerned have dealt positively with the Team headed by Mr. Zifferero, Action Team Leader to verify the presence of nuclear materials, even though it had chosen a very unsuitable time to carry out a visit.

As I have mentioned, first, the Team insisted that it should come during the Feast of the Sacrifice, which is a very important religious holiday for all Iraqis; secondly, the Team requested to visit sites which do not belong to the Ministry of Industry, and this required more time in order to secure the agreement of the Iraqi authorities.

The Iraqi Foreign Minister concluded by saying that we completely deny the news propagated by some news agencies which claim that Iraq denied access to certain facilities in Iraq. We also condemn the behaviour of certain authorities which only try to spread lies in order to save their interests.

In conclusion, I should like to confirm to you, Mr. President, and the other members of the Council that Iraq is honest and sincere in its cooperation with all the missions of the United Nations, including the Special Commission established under Security Council resolution 687 (1991).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of Iraq for the kind words he addressed to me.

There are no further speakers on my list for this meeting. Before adjourning the meeting, I invite the members of the Security Council to attend informal consultations immediately after this meeting.

The meeting rose at 7.35 p.m.

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PROVISIONAL

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28 June 1991

ENGLISH

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWO THOUSAND
NINE HUNDRED AND NINETY-SIXTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 28 June 1991, at 6.55 p.m.

President:	Mr. BECHIO	(Côte d'Ivoire)
Members:	Austria	Mr. HOHENFELLNER
	Belgium	Mr. NOTERDAEME
	China	Mr. JIN Yongjian
	Cuba	Mr. MUJICA CANTELAR
	Ecuador	Mr. POSSO SERRANO
	France	Mr. MERIMEE
	India	Mr. GHAREKHAN
	Romania	Mr. MUNTEANU
	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	Mr. VORONTSOV
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. RICHARDSON
	United States of America	Mr. WATSON
	Yemen	Mr. AL-ASHTAL
	Zaire	Mr. BAGBENI ADEITO NZENGEYA
	Zimbabwe	Mr. MUMBENGEGWI

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The meeting was called to order at 6.55 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

THE SITUATION BETWEEN IRAQ AND KUWAIT

LETTER DATED 26 JUNE 1991 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (S/22739)

LETTER DATED 28 JUNE 1991 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (S/22743)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The Security Council will now resume consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/22743 containing the text of a letter dated 28 June 1991 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council.

Following consultations among the members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The members of the Security Council have learnt with grave concern of an incident which occurred today when the Iraqi military authorities denied a joint IAEA/Special Commission Nuclear Inspection Team immediate and unimpeded access to a site designated for inspection by the Special Commission under paragraphs 9 and 13 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991). In the course of this incident, the Iraqi military did not comply with a request by the Acting Chief Inspector that there should be no movement of transport or equipment pending inspection. The Iraqi military fired small arms into the air when members of the Team were endeavouring to photograph loaded vehicles leaving the site. This incident followed earlier incidents on 23 and 25 June 1991 when the Iraqi military authorities denied the Nuclear Inspection Team access to certain facilities at another designated site.

(The President)

"On 26 June 1991, the Security Council held a meeting to consider the incidents of 23 and 25 June at which time the Permanent Representative of Iraq confirmed that Iraq had accepted Security Council resolution 687 (1991) and was doing its best to implement all the requirements and obligations imposed on it by the resolution. He further asserted that Iraq was co-operating with all United Nations missions, including the Special Commission. The President subsequently conveyed the Council's serious concern regarding the incidents to the Government of Iraq.

"The members of the Council strongly deplore the incidents of 23, 25 and 28 June, and in this connection condemn the conduct of the Iraqi authorities. All these incidents constitute flagrant violations of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) and of the undertakings contained in the exchange of letters between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Foreign Minister of Iraq governing the status, privileges and immunities of the Special Commission and of the Inspection Teams mandated under the Security Council resolution. Furthermore, these incidents demonstrate Iraq's failure to abide by its solemn undertakings to comply with all the provisions of Security Council resolution 687 (1991).

"The members of the Security Council have decided to ask the Secretary-General to send a high-level mission to Baghdad immediately to meet with the highest levels of the Iraqi Government to convey the Council's urgent demand for unequivocal assurances that the Government will take all necessary measures to ensure that no hindrances are placed in the way of the discharge of the Special Commission's mandate and that

(The President)

it will accord full co-operation, including immediate and unimpeded access, to the inspection teams in compliance with Iraq's obligations and commitments vis-à-vis the United Nations and the IAEA. The members of the Council have also stressed that the Government must furnish the high-level mission with unconditional guarantees for the safety and security of all personnel engaged in the performance of functions in connection with Security Council resolution 687 (1991). The mission, composed of the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission and the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, will depart New York this evening, 28 June 1991.

"At this time, the members of the Council call upon Iraq to grant the IAEA/Special Commission Nuclear Inspection Team currently in Iraq immediate and unimpeded access to the objects which the Team had endeavoured to inspect on 28 June 1991 and any other site deemed necessary.

"The members of the Security Council request the high-level mission to report to it at the earliest opportunity, through the Secretary-General, on the results of its meetings with the highest levels of the Iraqi Government and, in particular, on such further undertakings by the Government to ensure compliance at all levels, including local military and civilian authorities, with Iraq's obligations under Security Council resolution 687 (1991).

"The members of the Council wish to make it clear that the Council remains seized of this matter and that any recurrence of non-compliance would have serious consequences.

(The President)

"The members of the Council reiterate their views expressed in resolution 687 (1991) of the threat that all weapons of mass destruction pose to peace and security in the Middle East and of the need to work towards the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of such weapons."

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council remains seized of the question.

The meeting rose at 7.10 p.m.